

ESEA Committee of Practitioners (CoP)  
October 6, 2016  
19<sup>th</sup> Floor – 1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202

Committee Members:

Lori Cooper, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Joshua Shoemaker, Torey Richey, Jesus Escarcega, Clare Vickland, Lynn Kintz, Dawn Roedel, Roy Holloway, John McKay, Mary Ellen Good (phone), Amy Beruan (phone), Myra Westfall (phone), Holly Goodwin, Kirk Banghart (phone), Laura Gorman (phone), Tracy Thatcher

Guests:

Melissa Beck, Kay Bridges (phone)

CDE Representatives:

Brad Bylsma, Jennifer Simons, Jamie Rife, Lynn Bamberry, Sharon Triolo-Maloney, Shelby Schaefer, Jeff Klein, David Schneiderman, Barbara Vassis, Linnea Hulshof, Alyssa Pearson, Lourdes Buck, Pat Chapman, Robert Hawkins, Donna Morganstern, June Maginnis

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Jesusu Escarcega at 10:00 am.

Chair Escarcega introduced a discussion regarding a membership update.

- Melanie Jones will be stepping down as she did not feel that her area of work was applicable to most of the topics that come before the CoP.
- She will be replaced by Joshua Shoemaker from Jefferson County.
- Roy Holloway made a motion to approve Joshua's membership.
- The motion was seconded by Mitzi Swiatkowski.
- The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Chair Escarcega introduced a discussion of the minutes from the September 22 meeting:

- Joshua Shoemaker made a motion to accept the minutes.
- The motion was seconded by Torey Richey.
- The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson and Alyssa Pearson introduced a discussion about the work of the Accountability Spoke Committee. CDE solicited feedback from those present:

- Wondering if the word "single" in accountability system might actually be removed in the final rules.
  - >21,000 comments indicates a lot of disagreement across the nation
- Question about misalignment: we are often faced with confusion in our schools about what trumps what when it comes to State vs. federal requirements. What is going to take priority?

We look at student need, but we might be out of compliance with READ. How does CDE start navigating that?

- We have more State and local flexibility than under NCLB, but the law and the proposed regulations do not currently reflect that flexibility in all areas. We will re-work some of our areas of misalignment in partnership with the State Board and the Hub Committee. Different people have different ideas regarding what's right for Colorado. This is why we have such a robust feedback solicitation process in place.
- How many non-participants do we have that are parent refusals?
  - We don't know because there was a lot of difficulty coding the data.
- The districts and schools that have been impacted by this, are they generally economically diverse?
- It's totally unethical because I could encourage the parents of lower performing kids to opt them out.
  - That's not where we are at right now, but there is inherently an incentive in the system. We've heard from a lot of parents that this is stressful for their kids. So we think people are generally coming at it from a good place and not trying to avoid accountability. It does seem that they are mostly coming from traditionally higher performing schools, but I don't know what will happen in the future.
- Has any State contested the 95 number and suggested another? What about 85? What is actually statistically significant?
  - We want to do a real thorough analysis of this. It does appear that if you go below 85 there's a real concern that not all student groups are represented.

Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson and Donna Morganstern introduced a discussion about USDE's proposed regulations on supplement, not supplant. CDE solicited input on this topic.

- The four prescribed methods are micro-managing on the part of USDE.
- Members were invited to also submit comments in writing to Nazie or submit comments directly to USDE on their own. Pat Chapman encouraged members to do the latter in addition to providing input to CDE in order to ensure our comments are reflective of the Committee's concerns.

Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson and June Maginnis introduced a discussion about reporting requirements under ESSA.

- For small rural areas, it is really becoming much more of a heavy burden to meet the increasing federal reporting requirements. Colorado is very much a rural State, so please get that message across.

David Schneiderman introduced a discussion about the Title I allocation process and fiscal changes under ESSA.

- When we get our allocations, who in the district is notified of this breakdown of eligibility (the four grants)?
  - You're not. Typically we only go into that kind of detail if someone calls and asks.
- How do these numbers adjust when students move around?
  - It doesn't. Portability isn't in place yet.
- Census participation is very important. It's important that you help your families understand that it is safe and important to answer the census. The safety element is key in my district.
- The change in hold harmless for 2017-18 is an important factor in commenting on the supplement, not supplant rules because small districts may have to temporarily hold things together with general fund while Title I allocations drop.
- Do districts need to consult with non-public schools when selecting the poverty measure used to serve schools?
  - No, because the measure selected only impacts which public schools are served. All non-public schools enrolling eligible students are eligible to receive equitable services.
- What is the definition of a high school (grades)?
  - We will look this up.
- Dennis Vega, Field Director, from USDE was meeting with Centennial BOCES Superintendents (Skype call) (John Phenn was in attendance) and told them that States decide how to apply formulas for LEA allocations
  - This is not accurate. States are required to use a prescribed formula for determining LEA allocation
- There is interest to find out for which Title II-B grants Colorado might apply.

Jennifer Simons introduced a discussion regarding the work of the Effective Instruction & Leadership Spoke Committee. CDE solicited input on this.

- Need CTE representation on this spoke.
- Need more flexibility in State law with hiring retired teachers.
- Consensus that continuing with NCLB HQ requirements for paraprofessionals is a good idea.
- Need more exam only pathways to endorsements, particularly CLD.
- There is a need for culturally responsive training for teachers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.